



DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

from COUNCIL MEMBER MARY SHEFFIELD



February, 2015

www.detroitmi.gov

Welcome to the latest District 5 Monthly E-Newsletter, updating residents and the District 5 community on the latest City Council actions and happenings across the District. The newsletter will provide important informational resources for you and your neighbors. As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve the residents of District 5 on City Council.

On the Council Table

Help is on the way!



Council Member Mary Sheffield officially launched the Homelessness Task Force at a formal session of the Detroit City Council. The Task Force will bring together leading

agencies and resources in the arena of homelessness to create a venue for service coordination and innovation. Council Member Sheffield is interested in designing a City sponsored program which would provide "Housing First" and then address individual needs for those experiencing homelessness. This program would also have an employment component and is ultimately seeking to restore individuals to self-sufficiency. The first Task Force meeting is set to take place on February 25, 2015 at 5 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

[Click here for Detroit News Article](#)

[Click here to read the Homelessness Task Force Press Release](#)

Let's Cut a Side(lot) Deal!



Council was presented with a resolution requesting the transfer of over 30,000 City owned properties to the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) for use in the side lot program. Although Council Member Sheffield is generally supportive of the program, she was not willing to forego her responsibilities as an elected official and approve the measure without addressing some key issues. Her concerns revolved around protections for residents, and the City, after the transfer was complete. After requesting the resolution be brought back, Council Member Sheffield requested language be added to the resolution. The language would require: **the DLBA to host**

quarterly meetings in each Council District; a guarantee the side lot program would continue with any increase in the \$100 offer price requiring Council approval; provide the option to purchase land for urban agriculture; the DLBA honor current deals residents have with the City; and that there is an enforceable agreement with the City of Detroit and the DLBA prior to the transfer of land. City Council ultimately voted to bring the matter back after these concerns were addressed.

Democracy Matters in Detroit!



In an effort to protect local control and democracy in Detroit, Council Member Mary Sheffield penned a letter to State Representative Joseph Graves, Chair, of the Commerce and Trade Committee requesting he refuse to hear House Bill 4052. HB 4052 would prohibit local communities from establishing ordinances or requirements in the area of community benefits agreements (CBA's) as a condition for receipt of tax incentives or development deals. The bill was drafted in direct response to Detroit's effort to pass a comprehensive ordinance requiring CBA's for certain development deals. Councilwoman Sheffield cc'ed all the Commerce and Trade Committee members, Governor Rick Snyder and her colleagues which led to Council adopting an official resolution in opposition to House Bill 4052. She vowed to continue to fight for the right of Detroiters, and their elected officials, to have the authority to determine what's in the best interest of Detroit.

[Click here to read Council Member Sheffield's Letter](#)

Keeping Up with the Councilwoman

National GO RED DAY! Cooking with the Council



National Go Red Day raises awareness on heart disease, which is the number one killer among women. Councilwoman Sheffield championed the event "Cooking with the Council" an event put on by the Institute for Population Health. She was joined by Councilman Spivey as they helped mix up some healthy dishes to promote healthy eating which can help prevent heart disease.

Touring Detroit Facilities for the Homeless



Councilwoman Sheffield pledge to visit each homeless shelter in Detroit, as she takes the lead addressing this issue. She feels it is important to see first hand the conditions and programming offered at each facility and get a chance to interact with those residing in them. Her first two Stops where the Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) and Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS)

[For more photos of community events click here!](#)

Live in District 5
"Conversations with the Councilwoman"



Despite being hit again with bad weather, Councilwoman Sheffield pulled off her most successful "Conversations with Councilwoman." Nearly 100 people braved the elements and showed up to be a part of a discussion to develop an "Action Plan" for District 5. The Councilwoman had attendees break up into groups and hone in on ideas individuals highlighted at the beginning of the meeting. Her plans are to compile the information and issue a legislative and policy agenda for District 5.

The next edition will be titled Utilities and Home Repair Assistance and will have representatives from DTE Energy, The Heat and Warmth Fund (T.H.A.W.), Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA), Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, and City Representatives in the areas of CDBG and Home Repair funding. It will be held on **February 23, 2015, 6pm-8pm** at the **Church of the Messiah** located at 231 E. Grand Blvd. Detroit, MI 48207. Please plan to attend and learn about resources available to the community.

[Click here for more info about Conversations with the Councilwoman](#)

District 5 Thrives

K-OOL 100



On January 20th the Council Member Mary Sheffield recognized the Kiwanis Club No. 1 with a Testimonial Resolution highlighting their 100th Anniversary. Kiwanis is an international organization that was founded in Detroit, MI on January 21, 1915, and the coeducational service club has since grown to 600,000 active members in 80 countries. The organization serves children and youth using two approaches. One attempts to improve the quality of life through promoting health and education. The other tries to encourage leadership and service among youth. A resolution was also passed declaring January 21, 2015 as "Kiwanis Day" in the City of Detroit, Michigan.

[To learn more about Kiwanis International click here](#)

News You Can Use

Most Detroit Homeowners to See Property Assessment Reductions This Summer!



Councilwoman Sheffield stood with Mayor announcing new property tax assessment reductions coming this summer. The reassessment follows an exhaustive review conducted by Chief Assessor Gary Evanko and his staff of current assessments and actual home sales between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014. The data revealed, for example, that with the exception of some neighborhoods that have maintained their sales value, the majority of the city was still over assessed by 10% to 20%. By the end of January, the City will mail out notices to every Detroit homeowner informing them of their new assessment. Residents should note that this is a notice of proposed assessment changes and not a tax bill.

[Click here for Detroit News Article](#)

Property Tax Review Time



BOARD OF REVIEW: Property Assessment

Now is the time to have your property taxes reviewed to either have them lowered or receive an exemption altogether. To appear before the Board of Review, an appeal must be made during the February Assessors Review period, February 1st through February 15th. The Hardship Committee, subcommittee, shall review and submit recommendations to the full Board of Review on appeals requesting tax exemptions on the basis of poverty. The Board of Review may review Hardship Applications and grant or deny a full or partial exemption during the March Board of Review, the July Board of Review and the December Board of Review, as indicated by the above meeting dates. Council Member Sheffield is encouraging all interested District 5 residents to take advantage of this Charter and State mandated process.

[For more about the Detroit's Board of Review click here](#)

Give Me a Break!...(on My Taxes)



In response to the recent tax foreclosure and blight crisis, legislation was signed into law by the State which allows for the interest on delinquent owner occupied property taxes to be reduced from 18% to 6% when paid in full. A payment plan can be entered into to pay the delinquent taxes, in order to qualify the property must be your primary residence and you must be the registered owner. Homeowners will be required to pay 10% of the base delinquent taxes as a down payment, and then make monthly payments of about 3% of the base delinquent taxes. For more information, dial 211 or the Wayne County Treasurer at (313)224-5850.

[For more info on how to avoid tax foreclosure click here](#)



ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP
TRAINING PROGRAM

IBEW Local 58 is always looking for candidates for their apprenticeship program. The positions provide paid training to become a skilled electrician and ultimately become a member of Local 58. This position does not require any formal training and is open to everyone. Start your new career today!

[For more info on IBEW Apprenticeships click here](#)

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This newsletter is brought to you by the office of Council Member Mary Sheffield to keep District 5 and City residents informed about the issues important to them.
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